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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
SEP 28 2005



August 11, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph located at page 1, lines 5-9 with the following paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Reference is made to [Application Serial No. 09/747,150 Attorney Docket No. F-139] United States Patent No. 6,621,591, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRINTING AN INFORMATION-BASED INDICIA PROGRAM (IBIP) POSTAGE FROM A DOCUMENT INSERTER, assigned to the assignee of this application and filed on even date herewith.

**Please replace the paragraph located between Page 6, line 1 and, page 7, line 1, with the following paragraph:**

The mailing system **10** is comprised of a CPU (central processing unit) **12** with an address database **14** cooperatively connected to a client application **16** and a word processing means, generally designated **18**. The word processing means **18** is an application program, such as, for example, Microsoft® Word® or Wordperfect®, and has mail merge capabilities to produce an address-matched mailing wherein a document and an envelope have a matched address and/or addressee. The text of the document or documents together with targeted selections or criteria typically is input through the client application **16**, and the address database **14** is generally in the form of a mailing list comprised of successive address fields. The address fields are typically parsed and combined by means of the CPU **12**, which controls the word processing means **18** software application program and to print or forward each successive document to an application program printer driver interface **20**. It will be understood that such word processing means have a master or template document wherein various fields are identified and during the processing mode the specific designated fields, such as the address fields and the addressee name are inserted from a formatted table to produce the desired document. The application program printer divider interface **20**

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sends all print data to the print stream processor module **28**. In the mailing system **10**, the address is parsed by the address parsing means **22** which separates the text information from the address information. The address information is checked for accuracy and compliance with USPS formatting regulations by the address validation means **24**. If it is determined that the address is not valid, an address correction means **26** corrects the identified defects and forwards the validated address or corrected address as the case may be back to the print stream processor module **28**. The print stream processor module information is output to a document printer **30** to produce the desired document. The print stream processor module also inputs the address information to an envelope formatter **32**, which formats the envelope in accordance with information contained in an envelope definition file **34** for placement of the designation address, return address, barcode, postage, or other indicia or image to be printed on the envelope face. The envelope formatted information is passed to the IBIP generator **36** to produce the IBIP postage indicia in accordance with the value indicated by the postage meter **38** and forwards the postage indicia image and address image to the envelope printer **40**. The printed envelopes may be fed from the printer **40** to an inserter that inserts documents fed to it from the document printer **30** to produce a matched mailpiece for placement into the delivery stream.

**Please replace the paragraph located between page 7 line 14 and page 8, line 30, with the following paragraph:**

Turning now to **Fig.2**, a flow chart showing the method of the present invention for printing an IBIP indicia postage and address in a printing system is illustrated therein. The method of the printing system embodying the invention begins at the "START" step **100**. The method then advances to step **102**, wherein the mailpiece production is initiated utilizing a third-party application such as Microsoft® Word® to produce an address-matched mailing using the mail merge capabilities of the word processing application. Under the method of the invention, the client application does not need to be programmatically altered because the formatting, control, document setup, page attributes and the like are selected through the third party word processing software application. Once the mailpiece production is

initiated in step **102**, the document is processed with an embedded address as shown in step **104**. The address information is typically input from an address database or may be individually inserted in accordance with the third-party word processing application. Once the document is processed with the embedded address in step **104**, the method moves to step **106**, wherein the processed document of step **104** is sent to a printer driver as a print stream. The printer driver in step **106** converts the print stream into a document description format and sends it to the print stream processor module in step **107**. The print stream processor module in step **107** has means for determining in step **108** which information in the print stream is textual information, and in step **110** which information is control code information. The print stream processor module then removes the control code information as indicated in step **112**. The address is parsed from the remaining information as indicated in step **114** and the print stream processor module sends the textual information to the document printer as indicated in step **116**. The print stream processor module sends the parsed address information to an address validation correction test as shown in step **118**. The address is tested for validity and compliance with USPS regulations. Software such as Pitney Bowes Smart Mailer™ mail management software operates to find duplicate addresses, detect undeliverable addresses and where possible, corrects the errors in the address as indicated by the address correction method step **120**. In the valid address method step **118**, the ZIP code is also examined and a ZIP+4 code is provided where necessary. The output of the valid address method test step **118** is transmitted to the correction address from the address correction method step **120** is output to the document printer method step **116**. If step **118** finds a valid address, the output goes to create the indicia image method step **122**. In the create indicia image method step **122**, the IBIP postage indicia is generated in accordance with the required postage amount for printing on the envelope. The system then moves to the create address image step **124**, which provides the destination address, return address or other information, such as barcode, in a format recommended and required by the USPS regulations. The method of the invention then moves to step **126** to print the envelope in accordance with the envelope definition file requirements for placement of the address, postage, barcode and other indicia on the

envelope. The method also moves from the document printer method step **116** to print the formatted document as indicated in the print document method step **128**.